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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Comment: On line 1, page 2, for "The combined arms unit level" read "At the combined arms unit level".

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REPORT NO. 25X1

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COUNTRY USSR

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25X11. questioned concerning counterintelligence personnel in military units. the pre-World War II designation of such units was Special Section (OO-Osobyi Otdel). During World War II, the designation of counterintelligence units was changed to "Smersh" (Smert Shpionam-Death to Spies). Sometime in 1946-1947, these units were redesignated as "OKR" (Otdel Kontr-Razvedki-Counterintelligence Sections). these groups as working very closely with the unit political section, which he said was considered, for all practical purposes, a second counterintelligence unit. All dissatisfaction, whether it is with the service, the government, the Party, the system of collectivized agriculture, etc, is considered a fair target for counterintelligence.

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2. OO, and later Smersh, was headed during World War II by Gen. (fnu) ABAKUMOV as one of the MGB Directorates. It was charged specifically with combating counterrevolutionary thought and activity in the Soviet armed forces.

25X1 ABAKUMOV had the reputation of being a great and trusted favorite of STALIN who believed him implicitly. ABAKUMOV later became MGB Minister.

3. OKR personnel were charged with counterintelligence activities in all of the armed forces including those of the MVD and the then MGB, reporting directly to the MGB Counterintelligence Directorate. Its agents have nets throughout the entire ranks of the armed forces among officers, non commissioned officers, and private soldiers.

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The combined arms unit level (soyedineniye) in the army, there is an Otdel (section) OKR; at the regimental level, there is an Otdeleniye (section) OKR; at units below regimental level are found individual agents (Upolnomochenny). In the Border Guard and Otdel OKR is to be found at the district level, an Otdeleniye OKR at the detachment level, and an agent at the Komendatura level. Similar units are to be found at similar levels in other MVD troop units.

- 25X1 4. [] these counterintelligence units are not subordinate to the commanders on whose staff level they are to be found. For example, the agent in [] (2d Komendatura, 68th Border Guard Det) was not subordinate [] He was obligated however to inform [] of any counterrevolutionary activity in the unit, and he [] decided whether to arrest the suspect, have him shipped out, start an investigation or find some other solution. []
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5. Concerning actual counterintelligence operational activities in the unit, however, the agent did not tell [] who his informants were or any similar data. In actual practice, however, [] the command personnel would frequently see the agent talking to individual soldiers or officers in all sorts of odd and out of the way places (including the latrine). "Worse and more shameful," [] wrote secret or sometimes anonymous reports to the agent saying that a specific soldier was drunk and disorderly on a certain occasion, or was dirty or sloppy". These reports were often found or discovered while they were being written and [] receive information that a certain sergeant or private was informing on someone else. 25X1
- 25X16. [] such a busybody attitude, such an occupation with trivia (meloch'), and personal nastiness about who drank how much, when and with whom, who went where and with whom he talked (especially civilians), engenders a very strong feeling of distrust and hatred for the OKR system. If its operatives confined themselves to real counterintelligence work such as apprehending or spotting spies, traitors, and deserters, they could be tolerated. 25X1 [] however that they occupied themselves with "any dirt" (vsyakaya gryaz'), trivia, and skulked about in such a conspiratorial manner that they are universally hated and despised. 25X1 [] visibly heated and repeatedly denounced OKR work as crude, dirty, and trivial.
7. He related, with great gusto, one incident which happened when he was sitting in his quarters talking to [] intelligence officer. The latter, whom he described as a "right guy" (sympatichnyy paren'), indicated someone was listening at the keyhole. Tiptoeing to the door which opened outward on a flight of stairs, the intelligence officer - a big man physically - suddenly and violently burst open the door, severely shaking up and knocking down the stairs the unit agent, who apparently was listening intently at the keyhole. [] 25X1 [] the intelligence officer then rushed down to solace and help the poor agent, all the while chuckling inwardly, saying they had no idea anyone was outside. The latter solemnly swore he had just stopped at that place accidentally to tie his shoe when the incident occurred.

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- 25X1 8. [] all OKR agents (Upolnomochenny) are officers; that OKR officers could be transferred freely if need be from one service to another (for example, from the air force to the army to the MVD troops to the fleet). Normally they wear the uniform of the service to which assigned. 1.
- 25X1 9. [] the opinion that political officers could be transferred similarly to counterintelligence officers but to a more limited extent. He pointed out that [] unit political officer was closely tied in with the local regional party committee. He said often energetic party officials were injected into the army as political officers or, on the other hand, relieved of military duty when it was deemed to be in the party's interest to give them another assignment.
- 25X1 1. [] Comment: []
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25X1 one of his officers still wore mixed air and ground forces
25X1 uniform.

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